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Claims

1. A chemical composition comprising:
 - (a) sclerotium gum;
 - (b) a copolymer selected from the group consisting of methyl vinyl ether/ maleic anhydride copolymer and acryloyldimethyltaurate vinylpyrrolidone copolymer, in particular the ammonium salt of the latter; and
 - (c) a suitable carrier.
2. A chemical composition according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - (d) one or more electrolytes.
3. A chemical composition comprising:
 - (a) from 0.005 to 3%, and in particular from 0.005 to 1 % of sclerotium gum
 - (b) a from 0.005 to 3 %, and in particular from 0.005 to 1 % of a copolymer selected from the group consisting of PVM / MA crosspolymer and ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer
 - (c) a suitable carrier.
4. A chemical composition according to claim 3 further comprising:
 - (d) from 0.001 % to 5 %, in particular from 0.001 % to 3 %, further in particular from 0.005 % to 1.5 % of one or more electrolytes.
5. A topical formulation comprising a composition as claimed in the preceding claims and further ingredients.
6. A formulation according to claim 5, wherein the electrolyte is an effective amount of at least one ethanolamine derivative of formula I, or a topically acceptable salt thereof:



Wherein in formula I, R¹ and R² independently represent hydrogen, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl or C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted with hydroxy, methoxy, oxo or formyl.

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8. A formulation according to claim 6 wherein the ethanolamine of formula I is a mixed glycolate/citrate salt of dimethylethanolamine.

9. A formulation according to claim 5, wherein the electrolyte is a Vitamin C salt.

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10. The use of a composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 for manufacturing a topical or in particular a cosmetic formulation.